

NEWS

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National Library of Ireland
NUAIGHT Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann

PJ Lynch, one of Ireland's most revered illustrators, has worked on children's books for more than two decades.

His talent has been recognised with multiple awards. In 1987 he won the Mother Goose Award for his first illustrated book, Alan Garner's *A Bag of Moonshine*. He won the Irish Bisto Award and the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal twice – in 1995 for *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* and again in 1997 for *When Jessie Came Across the Sea*.



On Monday evening 8 December 2008, Children's Books Ireland, in association with the National Library of Ireland and Walker Books, will present a special event in the Library's Seminar Room to celebrate PJ Lynch's work. He will be joined by former Director of the National Library of Ireland, Dr Pat Donlon, who will lead a discussion on his life and work including seasonal publications, *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*, *A Christmas Carol* and his latest publication *The Gift of The Magi*. The discussion will be followed by an audience-led Q&A session.

Original drawing for *East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon* illustrated by PJ Lynch. National Library of Ireland Prints and Drawings Collections

The Library's collection of PJ Lynch material comprises his original illustrations for books such as *Oscar Wilde Stories for Children* (Simon & Schuster Young, 1990), *WB Yeats Fairy Tales of Ireland* (William Collins, 1990), *East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon* (Walker Books, 1991), *Forbidden Doors*

by Susan Price (Faber & Faber Ltd, 1992), *The Candlewick Book of Fairy Tales* (Walker, 1993), *Catkin* by Antonia Barber (Walker, 1994), *A Bag of Moonshine* by Alan Garner (William Collins, 1986), *Melisande* by Edith Nesbit (Walker, 1989) and *Johnny Reed's Cat and Other Northern Tales* by Kathleen Hersom (A&C Black, 1987). The collection also comprises original illustrations and preparatory work for *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojciechowski (Walker, 1995), *When Jessie came across the Sea* by Amy Hest (Walker, 1997) and for *The Names upon the Harp* by Marie Heaney (Faber & Faber, 2000).

A selection of original prints from the Library's extensive collection of works by PJ Lynch will go on display on 8 December and will remain on view until January 2009.

National Library Events

Library Late

The featured writers for the September and October 'Library Late' public interviews were Stella Tillyard and Tim Pat Coogan.

Stella Tillyard was interviewed by RTÉ broadcaster Myles Dungan, Tim Pat Coogan was interviewed by RTÉ producer Kay Sheehy.



Tim Pat Coogan (left) photographed on the evening of the September event with interviewer Kay Sheehy and the Director of the National Library of Ireland, Aongus Ó hAonghusa.



The writer Stella Tillyard (centre), interviewer Myles Dungan and Colette O'Daly, Assistant Keeper, National Library of Ireland, viewing the letters of Lady Louisa Conolly (née Lennox) to her sister Emily, 1st Duchess of Leinster, on domestic affairs and social life, 1759-1805.

Celebrating 200 years of Thomas Moore's Irish Melodies



To celebrate 200 years of Thomas Moore's Irish Melodies, the Thomas Moore Commemorative Festival recently presented *My Gentle Harp*, a nationwide tour featuring performances for voice and piano.

Celebrated pianist Dr Una Hunt and Ronan Kelly, author of *Bard of Erin: The life of Thomas Moore* took part in three events held in the Library's Seminar Room. Dr Hunt performed a number of pieces by Thomas Moore, while Ronan Kelly gave a lecture about the life of Thomas Moore.

A life dedicated to Bulgaria



The Bulgarian Ambassador, Emil Savov Yalnazov, speaking at the opening on 22 September of a documentary exhibition entitled 'James Bouchier – a life dedicated to Bulgaria', which was loaned to the National Library of Ireland by the Bulgarian Embassy.

James David Bouchier, an Irish journalist and political activist, was born in Baggotstown, Co Limerick in 1850. He made his first trip to the Balkans in 1888, after which his life and career became closely associated with the consolidation of the young Bulgarian state and the historic events in the Balkans at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

Launch of Bryden Thomson Trust and inaugural award



In memory of the conductor the late Bryden Thomson (1928-1921), his widow Mary Ellison Thomson has established the Bryden Thomson Trust to provide funding and career opportunities for young conductors.

Pictured at the launch of the trust and the presentation of the inaugural award were Mary Ellison Thomson; Martin Cullen, TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, and Gavin Maloney, the recipient of the award.

A Bird's Eye View of Ireland exhibition opens at the NPA



The National Photographic Archive's latest exhibition *A Bird's Eye View of Ireland* was officially opened on 18 November by Olivia Mitchell, TD, Fine Gael Spokesperson on Arts, Sport and Tourism. Ms Mitchell (centre) is photographed prior to the exhibition opening with Gerard Danaher, SC, Chairperson, National Library of Ireland; Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland, and Jenny Doyle, National Photographic Archive (NPA).

Recent Library acquisition includes important Lady Lavery letter

A small collection of material relating to General Emmet Dalton (1898-1978) has been purchased by the Library from his son, Richard Dalton. The collection includes items relating to Dalton's service during the First World War in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers (he attained the rank of major and was awarded the Military Cross). He later joined the IRA and played a prominent role in the War of Independence and the Civil War, during which he became a close friend and aide of Michael Collins, and was at the latter's side when he was killed at Béal na mBláth on 22 August 1922.

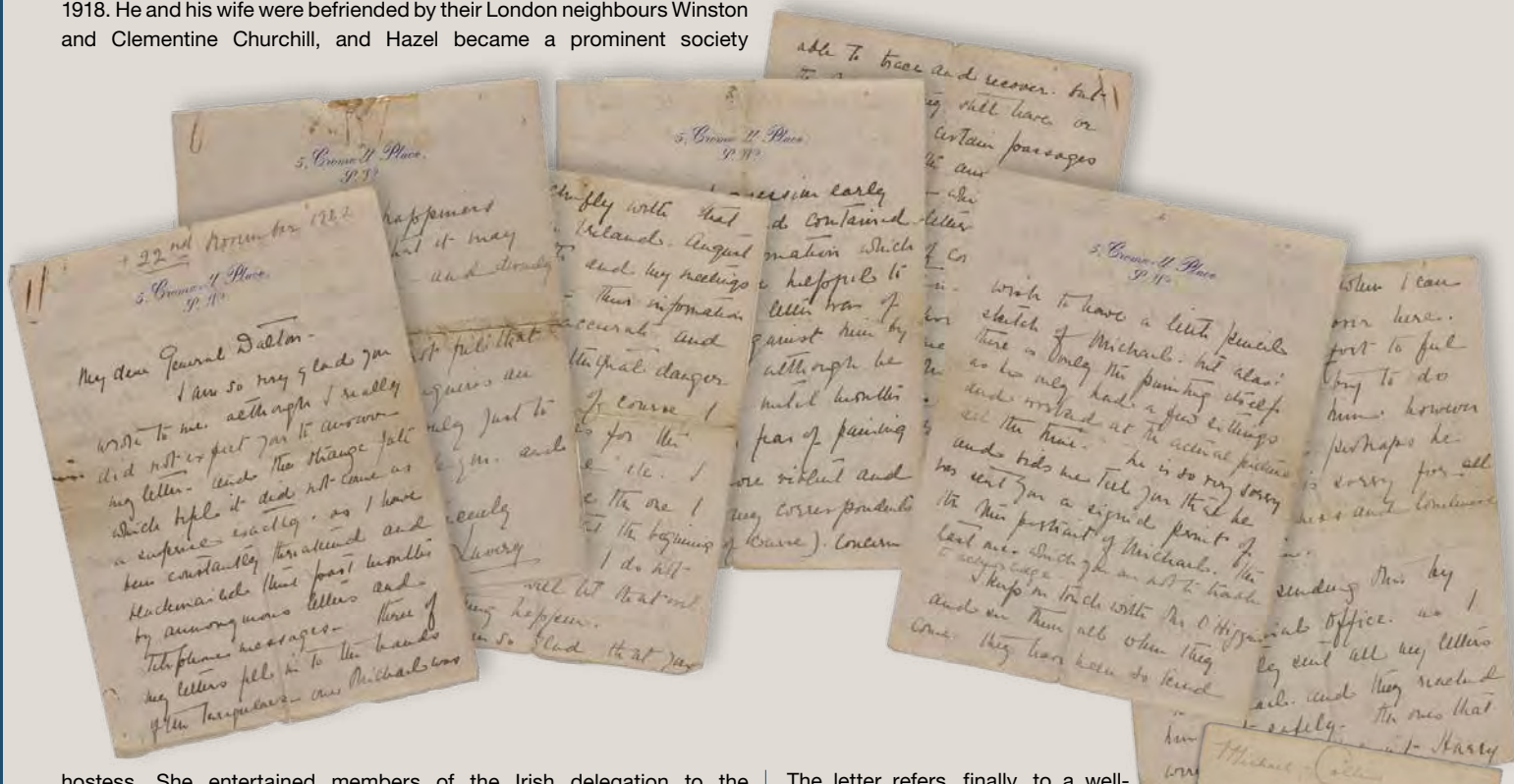
The collection includes an important letter to Dalton from Hazel, Lady Lavery, dated 22 November 1922.

Born in Chicago, Lavery (néé Martyn) married the artist, John ('Wee Johnny') Lavery in 1909. The latter was knighted for his war paintings in 1918. He and his wife were befriended by their London neighbours Winston and Clementine Churchill, and Hazel became a prominent society

and of course my husband would be unhappy if he knew and he is wonderfully good and kind to me ... The more violent of my correspondents (anonymous of course) concern themselves chiefly with that last week in Ireland August 16th to 20th [1922] and my meetings with Michael. Their information is perfectly accurate and they speak of the great danger I was in which of course I realised.

It appears that she had, in fact, narrowly escaped death during two attempts on Collins' life made during that week.

According to her husband, she had a strange premonition of the latter's death. The night after he left on his fateful journey to Béal na mBláth she woke up screaming. Next day she told Sir John that she had 'been seeing them carrying Michael covered in blood'. Sir John, whatever he may have thought of all this, preserved, it would seem, his equanimity.



hostess. She entertained members of the Irish delegation to the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations, becoming in the process the intimate (if not the lover) of Michael Collins. There is evidence that she influenced the latter's decision to accept the Treaty; as a result, she was suspected, especially in Irish Republican circles, of being a British government spy.

In her letter, Lavery advises Dalton that she has been 'constantly threatened and blackmailed these past months by anonymous letters and telephone messages'. These she attributes to the 'Irregulars' (Republicans) who, she states, intercepted three of her letters to Collins, which were passed to Harry Boland. (According to her biographer, they were also apparently at one time in the possession of Ernie O'Malley). The letters, she states, 'contained political information which I knew would be helpful to Michael' and were subsequently 'used against him by the Irregulars [sic]...' The writers threaten her with 'exposure', but 'I do not think God will let that evil, cruel thing happen'. She adds:

I am not in the least afraid nor do I care what happens to me but I could not bear to have Michael's memory even touched by scandal

The letter refers, finally, to a well-known coloured print (based on an original painting by her husband) of Collins lying in state, an autographed copy of which Sir John intends sending to Dalton. The print in question was duly sent and is among the papers purchased by the Library.

Further information on some of the foregoing may be found in Sinéad McCoole's book *Hazel: a life of Lady Lavery, 1880-1935* (Dublin, 1996).

Drawing of Michael Collins by Frank Leah.
The Joseph Holloway Collection. Prints and
Drawings Collections, National Library of Ireland.



A Bird's Eye View of Ireland

The first recorded example of aerial photography dates back to 1858 when Gaspar Felix Tournachon used a hot air balloon to photograph houses in the French village of Petit-Becetre.

Later pioneers of this form of photography included the Swedish scientist and inventor Alfred Nobel who, in 1897, became the first person to take aerial photographs using a rocket-mounted camera. He was followed in 1909 by the US-born aviator Wilbur Wright who became the first person to take photographs from an airplane.

Today, almost one hundred years after Wilbur Wright made his successful attempt, aerial photography is used to assist a wide range of commercial and non-commercial activities ranging from map making, surveying, archaeology, environmental studies, geographical studies, social studies, property development and industrial development to oceanography, engineering projects, urban and rural planning, military intelligence, marketing and advertising.

A Bird's Eye View of Ireland, the exhibition currently showing at the National Photographic Archive (NPA) features aerial photographs which provide a unique perspective on the landscape and development of 20th century Ireland. They also provide a record of several significant environmental, archaeological, social and industrial events in the nation's history.

Among the images featured are photographs of the Hill of Tara in County Meath; the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare; Croagh Patrick in County Mayo; the Guinness Brewery in Dublin; Powerscourt House in Enniskerry, County Wicklow after it had been gutted by fire; the Fiat Ireland plant in Dublin; the Stormont Parliament Building in Northern Ireland; Áras an Uachtaráin, the President of Ireland's residence in the Phoenix Park, and Mondello Park, the Irish motor racing venue in County Kildare. Also included are German aerial reconnaissance photographs of Dublin and its environs taken on 29 December 1940. Among the areas identified are strategically important military barracks, power plants and airports.



Lissadell House, Co Sligo, the childhood home of the revolutionary, Constance Gore-Booth and the poet and suffragist, Eva Gore-Booth. WB Yeats, who occasionally holidayed here, made the house famous with the opening lines of his poem 'In memory of Eva Gore-Booth and Constance Markiewicz'. The shadow of Alexander 'Monkey' Morgan's plane may be seen in the bottom left hand corner of this photograph.



Pilgrim's Way, Croagh Patrick, Co Mayo.

Amharc Anuas ar Éirinn

Ba é in 1858 a rinneadh an chéad sampla d'aer-ghrianghrafadóireacht a thairgeadh nuair a d'úsáid Gaspar Felix Tournachon balún te chun grianghraif a ghlacadh de thithe sa sráidbhaile Francach Petit-Becetre.

I measc ceannródaithe níos deireanaí den chineál seo grianghrafadóireachta bhí an t-eolaí agus cumadóir Sualannach Albert Nobel, arb é, i 1897, an chéad duine le haerghrianghraif a ghlacadh ag úsáid ceamara roicéad. Ba é t-eitleoir Wilbur Wright as na Stáit Aontaithe, arb é an chéad duine, i 1909, le grianghraif a ghlacadh ó eitleán a tháinig ina dhiaidh.

Inniu, beagnach céad bliain i ndiaidh Wilbur Wright a iarracht rathúil a dhéanamh, úsáidtear aer-ghrianghrafadóireacht le cuidiú le raon leathan de ghníomhaíochtaí tráchtála agus neamhtráchtála ó léarscáileanna a dhéanamh, shuirbhéireacht, sheandálaíocht, staidéir ar an gcomhshaol, staidéir gheografacha, staidéir shóisialta, fhorbairt maoinne agus fhorbairt tionscail go dtí aigéaneolaíocht, tionscadail innealtóireachta, pleanáil uirbeach agus tuaithe, faisnéis mhíleata, margaíocht agus fógraíocht.

Sa taispeántas atá á thaispeáint faoi láthair sa Chartlann Náisiúnta Ghrianghrafadóireachta (CNG), **Amharc Anuas ar Éirinn**, tá aerghrianghraif a thugann peirspictíocht uathúil ar thridhreach agus fhorbairt Éireann sa fichiú haois. Soláthraíonn siad freisin taifead de roinnt imeachtaí suntasacha comhshaoil, seandálaíochta, sóisialta agus tionscail i stair an náisiúin.

I measc na n-íomhánna a léirítear tá grianghraif de Chnoc na Teamhrach i gContae na Mí; Aillte an Mhothair i gContae an Chláir; Cruach Phádraig i gContae Mhaigh Eo; Grúdlann Guinness i mBaile Átha Cliath, Teach Powerscourt in Áth na Sceire, Contae Chill Mhantáin, monarcha Fiat Éireann i mBaile Átha Cliath; Foirgneamh Rialtas Stormont i dTuaisceart Éireann; Áras an Uachtaráin, áras cónaithe Uachtarán na hÉireann i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce, agus Páirc Mondello, ionad rásaíocht charranna na hÉireann i gContae Chill Dara. Tá grianghraif aerthaiscéalaíochta Ghearmánacha de Bhaile Átha Cliath agus a chomharsanacht a glacadh ar an 29 Nollaig 1940 ann chomh maith. I measc na gceantar a sainathniodh tá beairicí míleata, gléasraí cumhachta agus aerfoirt a bhfuil tábhacht straitéiseach ag baint leo.

The work featured in the current exhibition is drawn from three NPA collections – the Morgan collection, the Rex Roberts collection and the Independent Newspapers (Ireland) Limited collection.

The first of these comprises almost 3,000 photographs taken by former Royal Artillery reconnaissance pilot Alexander ‘Monkey’ Morgan who became a commercial photographer after the Second World War. His work encompassed a wide range of subject matter covering almost all counties in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Many of the photographs in the collection were first published in an *Irish Independent* weekly series entitled ‘Views from the air’. The year after they were published, Morgan (then aged just 38) died tragically when his twin-engine Piper Apache aircraft crashed near Shannon Airport.

The second collection featured in the exhibition comprises photographs taken by Rex Roberts, who ran a commercial studio in Dublin between 1961 and 2005. In addition to his everyday work which involved covering weddings, doing portrait photography

and carrying out promotional assignments, he was also commissioned to carry out aerial photography assignments for companies and organisations such as Aer Lingus, Roadstone, Bord na Móna and the Industrial Development Authority (IDA). Included in the NPA’s collection of 50,000 images by Roberts are 9,000 aerial shots focused on areas of Dublin and the surrounding counties.

The third strand of the exhibition features images drawn from the Independent Newspapers (Ireland) Limited collection which was donated to the Library in November 2004. The 300,000 images in this collection are of immense historical value and provide an excellent record of almost every aspect of 20th century Irish life. Since the material first became available on the Library’s website in February 2005, it has consistently attracted a great deal of interest from researchers and members of the public.

A Bird’s Eye View of Ireland runs in the National Photographic Archive (NPA) Temple Bar until 28 February 2009.



National Flour Mills, Cork. The mills were built in the 1930s for Odlums. The mills’ port location was convenient for deliveries. In addition, grain could be stored in the large silos on the site.



Fire on Bray Head, Co Wicklow.

Tá an obair atá sa taispeántas reatha bainte as trí bhailiúchán de chuid an CNG (Cartlann Náisiúnta Ghrianghrafadóireachta) – bailiúchán Morgan, bailiúchán Rex Robert agus bailiúchán Nuachtán Neamhspleách (Éire) Teoranta.

Cuimsíonn an chéad cheann acu seo beagnach 3,000 grianghraf a ghlac iarphíolóta taiscéalaíochta de chuid na hAirtléire Ríoga Alexander ‘Monkey’ Morgan a chuaigh i mbun saothair mar ghrianghrafadóir tráchtála i ndiaidh an Dara Cogadh Domhanda. Chuimsigh a chuid oibre raon leathan d’ábhar a chlúdaíonn beagnach gach contae i bPoblacht na hÉireann agus i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Foilsíodh a lán de na grianghraif sa bhailiúchán i sraith sheachtainiúil san *Irish Independent* dar teideal ‘Views from the air’ ar dtús. An bhliain i ndiaidh gur foilsíodh iad fuair Morgan (a bhí 38 bliain d’aois go díreach) bás go traigéideach nuair a thuairteáil a aerárthach Piper Apache déinneallach gar d’Aerfort na Sionainne.

Cuimsíonn an dara bailiúchán sa taispeántas grianghraif a ghlac Rex Roberts, a bhí ag reáchtáil stiúideo tráchtála i mBaile Átha Cliath idir 1961 agus 2005. Chomh maith lena obair laethúil a bhain le bainiseacha a chlúdach, grianghrafadóireacht phortráide a dhéanamh agus

tascanna cuir chun cinn a dhéanamh, rinneadh é a choimisiúnú chun tascanna aer-ghrianghrafadóireachta a dhéanamh do chuideachtaí agus eagraíochtaí cosúil le Aer Lingus, Roadstone, Bord na Móna agus Údarás Forbartha Tionscail (UFT). Áirítear ar bhailiúchán an CNG (Cartlann Náisiúnta Ghrianghrafadóireachta) de 50,000 íomhá le Roberts 9,000 seat ón aer dírithe ar cheantair Bhaile Átha Cliath agus ar na contaetha thart air.

Sa tríú sraith den taispeántas tá íomhánna a baineadh as bailiúchán Nuachtán Neamhspleách (Éire) Teoranta a tugadh don Leabharlann i mí na Samhna 2004. Tá luach fíorthábhachtach ag baint leis na 300,000 íomhá sa bhailiúchán seo ó thaobh na staire de agus soláthraíonn siad taifead sármhaith de bheagnach gach gné de shaol na hÉireann san fhichiú haois. Ó cuireadh an t-ábhar ar fáil ar dtús ar láithreán gréasáin na Leabharlainne i mí Feabhra 2005, tá sé ag tarraingt suim ollmhór ó thaighdeoirí agus ó bhaill an phobail go seasta.

Tá ***Amharc Anuas ar Éirinn*** á reáchtáil sa Chartlann Náisiúnta Ghrianghrafadóireachta (CNG), Barra an Teampaill go dtí 28 Feabhra 2009.



Cartoon depicting a member of Cumann na mBan collecting for the Irish Volunteers

LIBRARY LAUNCHES NEW MANUSCRIPT RESEARCH GUIDE TO WOMEN IN IRISH HISTORY

Traditionally, students and others researching the role played by women in Irish history have faced a considerable challenge when trying to locate the relevant Library reference materials. This is because the papers of female political activists, authors, artists and other women who played an important role in various aspects of Irish history are distributed widely throughout the Library's vast collections.

In an effort to help researchers identify relevant materials relating to the lives and activities of influential women in Irish history, the Library has now produced a manuscript research guide entitled *Women in Irish History* which details the processes and procedures to be followed when trying to locate reference sources on this topic.

The guide contains a brief description of each of the relevant Library collections. It also outlines the contextual background of each collection, and it provides pointers as to where the papers (both personal and otherwise) of various female authors, artists and political activists including Teresa Brayton, Maud Gonne, Maria Edgeworth, Lady Augusta Gregory, Sarah Purser, Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, Alice Stopford Green, Kate O'Brien, Sadhbh and Maighread Trench and Kathleen McKenna Napoli are housed.

The guide highlights a number of Library collections which inadvertently conceal material relating to women in Irish history. Examples include the papers of Piaras Béaslaí which contain correspondence between Béaslaí and his cousin Lily Mernin who worked as a typist in Dublin Castle during the War of Independence. She became one of Michael Collins' most important informants and is credited with having established the identity of a

number of the key British intelligence agents who were shot in Dublin on Bloody Sunday in 1920.

The diaries and letters of less well-known women provide captivating accounts of the social, cultural and political standing of women from different eras who lived in very different types of communities all over Ireland. One interesting example is the diary of Mary Martin who lived in Monkstown, County Dublin. Written in 1916 when her son Charles was missing and wounded on the Salonika front, it also contains personal narratives relating to the Easter Rising and other events during the First World War.

Another diary – that of Anne Jocelyn who was a member of a County Wexford evangelical family – provides interesting insights into domesticity and women's views on religion and home life in 18th century rural Ireland.

As well as providing references for the Library's numerous collections of personal papers, the guide highlights the records of organisations which were engaged in political, cultural and nationalistic campaigns led by women. The records of these organisations show how female activism developed in Ireland during the late 19th century and into the 20th century. Included in the Library's collections are papers relating to the Ladies Land League, Inghinidhe na hÉireann, the Irish Countrywomen's Association, Cumann na mBan and the Irish Women's Association.

The Ladies Land League papers offer fascinating insights into the work of women involved in the League. They also provide first-hand accounts of post-Famine evictions in Ireland.

The League monitored all evictions, provided relief for evicted tenants, and maintained detailed records on specially devised eviction forms. Included in the Library's collection of papers relating to the Ladies Land League are numerous completed eviction forms; the particulars of individual tenants, tenant families and landlords; letters to the League's leaders relating to finances and relief measures for evicted tenants, and a number of items relating to lecture tours and reports from various League branches.

The manuscript research guide to *Women in Irish History* is the first in a series of publications designed to help readers make the fullest possible use of the Library's manuscript collections. It is hoped that it will be a useful aid for students and researchers of social, political and gender history in Ireland.

Copies of the guide may be downloaded from www.nli.ie/en/manuscript-research-guides.aspx

Women's Prison

47 PA

AN APPEAL TO THE THE RELEASE OF HELD AS S

Since the abolition of slavery prison
close of the war they are returned to their
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Ireland so nearly won her war for
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These four soldiers of the Irish F
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Here are the facts. It is a m
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Lloyd George and the English Gov
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There can be no dou
Ireland, a partitione
living in Free Countries w
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of these four Irish soldiers

To those who clai
honour of the Irish race is
of the cradle of the race,
nations are released.



WOMEN'S PRISONERS' DEFENCE LEAGUE 10, BARNELL SQUARE

THE IRISH RACE TO SECURE IRISH PRISONERS OF WAR SLAVES IN ENGLAND

Prisoners of war are no longer held as chattel slaves by the conquerors; at the respective countries. All the belligerents in the last Great War conformed in the case of four Irishmen, who, having been a particular menace to her slavery of hard labour in Maidstone and Dartmoor convict prisons.

freedom that England asked for truce; but Ireland was thoroughly heated not in a position to protect her Nationals. Republic fought as clean and brave a fight as was ever fought, and if war is a war.

matter of history that, despairing of ever beating the I.R.A., whose guerilla nation, England determined to show the Irish people what "frightfulness" in jails where their crimes had brought them, her war fiends, whose mad blood-regular Army or for civilian life; she equipped them in a half uniform, so they black and khaki—hence the name Black-and-Tans, and wrecked and looted peaceful murdered women and children and priests, and burned towns and factories in the and under high Imperial direction they burned towns and factories in the policy, for the Irish people, of starvation or emigration. To stop this inhuman public ordered the carrying of the war into England, but, more scrupulous than government, it made a distinction between the downtrodden English workers and given to the Irish Volunteers who were entrusted with this dangerous work was of the English workers so far as possible, but to attack the strongholds of British warehouses. Right well the I.R.A. carried out these orders. Bank after bank was merchandise went up in flames. To avoid a panic the disciplined English Press t England asked for a truce, and withdrew her Black-and-Tans from Ireland.

the truce, when the head of her War Office, Sir Henry Wilson, went to the assistance of Orange defences he called it, and Michael Collins ordered his execution. ge, having secured subservient tools in Ireland to split the nation, ordered the shelling n was again laid waste by bombardments. British cannon and war material were begun again and the units of the I.R.A. in England took up the work planned, but ruce. The raid on a Manchester bank, for which subsequently the four I.R.A.-men: y were arrested, was part of this work. Breen was captured during the fighting in ree State Army part of British Imperial defence, he was handed over to the English; captured in England. Though no lives were taken, Breen got a life sentence.

but these men are prisoners of war. It is not only a question of humanity, but it is one where the d colony of the British Empire, is powerless; but the thirty millions of the Irish race no recognise the conventions of humanity in regard to prisoners of war, should be able rning to these rules and shame her out of this gratification of racial hatred in the case

in Irish blood we appeal. It is not only a question of humanity, but it is one where the d colony of the British Empire, is powerless; but the thirty millions of the Irish race no recognise the conventions of humanity in regard to prisoners of war, should be able rning to these rules and shame her out of this gratification of racial hatred in the case

MAUD GONNE MACBRIDE,
HON. SECRETARY,
WOMEN'S PRISONERS' DEFENCE LEAGUE.

General Election 1943.

To the Electors of Dublin South City.



Liviz-Photo

1942

I am standing in South City, where many of you will remember me, as I represented this area for seven stormy years (1918-25) in the Dublin Corporation. I appeal to the electors, men and women, for a clear mandate to represent their joint interests in the Dail by giving me their NUMBER 1 vote. If elected I shall be a representative not tied to, nor gagged by, any party, but free to vote on progressive lines on all issues requiring independence. I am not a member of ANY POLITICAL PARTY, nor have I been since 1927, when I resigned from Fianna Fail.

I have been actively associated both with the National Movement and the fight for women's rights—both causes still claim my wholehearted allegiance. There can be no true democracy where there is not complete economic and political freedom for the entire nation, both men and women. Nor can there be effective administration where the political machine is entirely controlled by one sex only. James Connolly said:—

"The worker is the slave of capitalist society: the female worker is the slave of that slave. In Ireland that female worker has hitherto exhibited in her martyrdom an almost damnable patience."

This is as true to-day as when Connolly wrote it.

Nationally I stand for the complete independence of Ireland and for the abolition of partition which has dismembered our country. My attitude towards Ireland's right to unfettered nationhood is unchanged and unchangeable. Irishwomen have always been active in our national struggles. Their help is as readily received as it is readily forgotten. To-day their aid is more than ever needed. Under the 1916 Proclamation, Irishwomen were given equal citizenship, equal rights and equal opportunities: subsequent constitutions have filched these, or smothered them in mere "empty formulae." While the general position has grown steadily worse for both men and women, women have everywhere been the greater sufferers, directly and indirectly;

The National Library of Ireland Society

In 2009, the National Library of Ireland Society will be forty years old. It still prospers after all these years, and currently offers its many members a varied and exciting programme of events designed to complement the work of the Library and enrich the life of the community of the Library's readers and staff.

The Society is an association of 'friends' established in 1969 by the then Director of the Library, Patrick Henchy, in order to increase awareness of the Library, promote its interests and help it achieve its aims as a national cultural institution. At that time, the Library had long been a victim of shameful neglect by government. The need to alert public opinion to this unfortunate situation, and demonstrate the public's support for remedying it, was the immediate reason why the Society was founded.

The inaugural meeting of the Society, presided over by Professor Patrick Lynch, the eminent economist, was widely reported in the press. Moreover, *The Irish Times* marked the occasion with an editorial – headlined 'Unfair to Books!' – in which the condition of the Library was described as 'one of the major scandals of our country'.

Matters have greatly improved in the intervening years, and the Library is now one of the undoubted treasures of our country. The Society has played its part in that transformation, and continues to make a vital contribution by providing a forum in which scholars and others can interact with the Library and with one another. Given the Library's increased emphasis on outreach, the importance of this forum has arguably never been greater.

The Society's principal activity is a series of monthly lectures held from October to May each year. Recent speakers have included writers Dermot Bolger, Gabriel Fitzmaurice and Dennis O'Driscoll and academics Richard Aldous, Tom Dunne, James McGuire, Rolf and Magda Loeber, Finola Kennedy, Terry Dolan and Maurice Harmon. Professor Harmon is today the sole survivor of the Society's original executive committee of forty years ago.

A highlight of the Society's programme is the annual lecture in memory of John O'Meara, professor of Latin at UCD from 1948 to 1984. These lectures are made possible by a generous endowment from Professor O'Meara's family. The three O'Meara lecturers to date have been Professors Mary Beard and Eamon Duffy, both of Cambridge University, and Professor Denis Donoghue of New York University.

Professor Mary Carruthers, a distinguished American medievalist, will give the next O'Meara lecture on 11 February 2009. Another noteworthy speaker during the coming year will be Sir Martin Gilbert, the renowned biographer of Winston Churchill, who will talk to the Society on 27 May 2009 on 'Churchill and Ireland'.

In addition to its lecture series, the Society organises an annual outing to historic houses and other similar venues. The Society's outing to Stormont, the Northern Ireland parliament building, in 2005 was particularly successful. Those who were there will never forget the moment when the present Chairman of the Society,



THE IRISH TIMES, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1969

SUPPORT PLAN FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY Aim to retain manuscripts

Irish Times Reporter

A NATIONAL LIBRARY Society of Ireland was founded last night, after a meeting in the National Gallery, Merrion square, Dublin. The aims of the society, under the chairmanship of Dr. Patrick Lynch, Associate Professor of Political Economy (Applied Economics), U.C.D., are to promote interest in the library and to help it achieve its aims as a national institution.

In his address to the 250 friends of the library who attended the meeting, Dr. Lynch said that although there was a tremendous amount of scattered good-will towards the library, this good-will lacked organisation and direction. "This society offers an opportunity to bring many people and institutions together. Since the library was built in 1890 there has been a vast expansion in its activities. The trustees did not have a Department of Manuscripts, a Department of Prints and Drawings, a photographic department and a genealogical office. "Neither could they anticipate the expansion of the publications of the international organisations, or that with the expansion of higher educational and technological advance, there would be a need for a much bigger increased service and more particularly for information services. "The proposal was seconded by Professor O'Driscoll, of the University of Toronto and chairman of the Canadian Irish Studies Committee. He said that the formation of the new society was not only desirable, but a crying need and necessity. Valuable Irish books and manuscripts were being sold shamelessly, carelessly and complacently abroad for small sums. A movement on a national scale was necessary if this was to be stopped.

"SHAMEFUL NEGLECT"

The official motion, calling for the establishment of the new society, was proposed by Senator Michael Yeats, who described it as one of the most important and encouraging developments in the cultural life of the country. The library of the National Library had been so gradual, he said, that the public had never really been enlightened as to what was going on. The formation of this new society will enable it to make sure that a new start is made," he said.

Unfair to Books!

The condition of the National Library is one of the major scandals of our country. Its shame is manifest to the least observant visitor on entering the building. The National Museum is also in a sad way, but the impact upon the favourable setting that the deficiencies are less apparent. It requires a visit to the Royal Hospital at Kildare, where a great deal of the Museum's treasure (and all its groupings) are hidden away in boxes, to realise how ill-served the public is.

The Library's case has often been made in these columns. It is deficient in space, staff and supplies. What worst there is everything depressed and underdone. The boxes in the hall are evidence of lack of space. A peep behind the scenes brings that message home. But that is not the worst of it.

The Library does not buy all it should buy, partly because it has no funds. When some valuable Yeats material came into the Museum the City Library was able to buy out of competition the money that the National Library could not afford.

The proximity of Trinity College's library suggests some comparison. In the sphere of the actual it is encouraging to find that an expert in advancing the Trusts on the sands of the Library and last night's meeting to form a group of "friends" of the Library may arouse this Government to a sense of the importance of the nation's book and manuscript collection and the needs of scholars outside Trinity.

MANUSCRIPTS

of that one of the society should be to of valuable Irish manuscripts from the books and manuscripts of our cultural heritage remain in this country. It is hoped that the society will focus attention on the important face of the said Dr. Lynch, Dublin an interest in Irish studies.

SEEKING THEM OUT

Professor O'Driscoll suggested the appointment of a roving manuscript specialist, who would scour the country for valuable letters and manuscripts. He said that the country's present young writers should be approached for their manuscripts, but that "we must insure that these writers do not suffer financially." He said that that Irish writers would prefer Dublin rather than scattered abroad in the world, not only to minimise the obvious travel difficulties, but also to bring them into contact with the country where the book was written.

Professor O'Driscoll criticised the commercial motives of many collectors who refused to allow their purchases to be studied by scholars because of the subsequent decrease in market value.

Mr. Desmond Clarke, Librarian of the R.D.S., expressed his support for the aims of the society. At the conclusion of the meeting an executive committee was elected, with Dr. Lynch as its chairman, and Mr. Patrick Henchy, Director of the National Library, as secretary.

The other members of the committee elected were: Mr. Desmond Clarke, Librarian of the R.D.S.; Professor David Greene, Institute of Advanced Studies; Dr. H. W. Parke, Vice-Provost, Trinity College; Miss Power, Librarian of English, U.C.D.; Senator Michael Yeats; Miss Maureen Byrne, City Librarian; Dr. C. S. Andrews, and Captain T. MacGlinchey, of the Irish University Press.

Fr J Anthony Gaughan, rose to say grace before lunch in the main dining room in Stormont, a sanctum more usually dominated by another clergyman!

The Society has also produced some books, most recently the *Festschrift* of essays and poems in honour of Dónall Ó Luanaigh, the Library's former and much respected Keeper of Collections. This volume, entitled *Librarians, Poets and Scholars*, was edited by Felix M Larkin, Vice-Chairman of the Society, and published by Four Courts Press in November 2007.

There are approximately 550 members of the Society, and new members are always welcome. For further information, please contact the Honorary Secretary, Roger Courtney, at 01-6030 284 or email rcourtney@nli.ie.



Felix M Larkin, Vice-Chairman, National Library of Ireland Society (left) and Dónall Ó Luanaigh, former Keeper of Collections, National Library of Ireland, photographed at the launch of *Librarians, Poets and Scholars* – a *Festschrift* for Dónall Ó Luanaigh in 2007.

The National Library of Ireland

The main Library building is in Kildare Street, Dublin 2, while the Library's administrative headquarters are located in 4 Kildare Street, Dublin 2. The Manuscripts Department and the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland are in 2/3 Kildare Street, which is also the venue for the Library's current exhibition **Strangers to Citizens: the Irish in Europe 1600-1800**. The National Photographic Archive is located in Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 2.

For enquiries about our collections, opening hours and admission procedures, call 01-603 0213 or email info@nli.ie. For enquiries about our photographic collections, call 01-603 0371 or email photoarchive@nli.ie. For all other enquiries, or to contact a member of the Library staff, call our main switchboard on 01-603 0200. Details of the Library's collections, services and events can be found on our website www.nli.ie.

National Library of Ireland Society

The National Library of Ireland Society is a voluntary support group which aims "to assist and support the National Library in the maintenance and expansion of its services and the improvement and protection of its status as the National Library of Ireland." It arranges an annual programme of lectures on topics of Irish interest in a variety of subject areas including history, literature and current affairs; it organises an annual outing to historic houses and other venues, and it provides an opportunity for interested persons to support the Library at a crucial phase in its development.

Among the highlights of the Society's Autumn/Winter programme was a lecture entitled *The Rivals are Immortal*, an exploration of the two political giants, William Gladstone and Benjamin Disraeli. The lecture, which took place in October, was given by Professor Richard Aldous, Head of the School of History and Archives, University College Dublin.

Upcoming events include the third John J O'Meara Memorial Lecture, which will take place on 11 February 2009 and will be given by Mary Carruthers, Erich Maria Remarque Professor of Literature, New York University and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. The title of her address will be *To Make a Library of my Memory: the Transmission and Invention of Knowledge in the Middle Ages*.

Details of Society events can be found on the Library website www.nli.ie. Lectures and other events begin at 7pm and take place in the Library's Seminar Room.

Membership Rates

Ordinary Membership	€25 p.a.
OAP Membership	€15 p.a.
Student Membership	€10 p.a.
Corporate Membership (by invitation only)	€1,000 p.a.

Members of the Society are entitled to a 10% discount in the Joly Café and in the Library shop.

Contacting us

For further information on the NLI Society, please contact Roger Courtney, Hon Secretary, NLI Society, National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Email: nlisociety@nli.ie. Tel: 01-603 0384

Strangers to Citizens exhibition and My Yeats receive special commendation at Irish Design Awards

The Library's current exhibition, *Strangers to Citizens: the Irish in Europe, 1600-1800* received a special commendation in the 'Commercial Interior and Exhibition Design' category at the recent annual Institute of Designers in Ireland (IDI) Awards held in Dublin. The exhibition was designed by Martello Media, who also designed the Library's award-winning exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats*.

The Library's *My Yeats* trail guide received a commendation in the 'Visual Communications - Promotional Literature/Publications' category. Designed by Oonagh Young of Design HQ in conjunction with Library staff and the Primary Curriculum Support Programme, *My Yeats* was created to help children aged 7+ and their families to have fun as they explore the Yeats exhibition together. *My Yeats* is available free of charge to families visiting the exhibition.

Gems of Irish Opera



Photograph shows from left Aoife O'Sullivan, soprano; Dean Power, tenor; Ann Hogan, mezzo-soprano; Gavin Ring, baritone; John Allen, narrator and Una Hunt, Musical Director, 'Gems of Irish Opera.'

On 10 and 12 November the Library, in association with Opera Theatre Company, hosted an evening in the Seminar Room featuring excerpts from operas by WV Wallace, Robert O'Dwyer and CV Stanford. In the second half of the programme on each of the two evenings, Opera Theatre Company presented *The Sleeping Queen* to mark the bicentenary of the birth of the composer Michael William Balfe. The only operetta written by Balfe, it was presented in its entirety.

Studentships 2008/2009

Details of the Library's 2008/2009 Studentships awards have recently been announced. The recipients are: Carol Bergin (Library Studentship); Luke Kirwan (Archival Studentship); Owen McGee (Research Studentship). Carol Bergin will work in Acquisitions and Newsplan; Luke Kirwan and Owen McGee will work in the Manuscripts Department.

Calendar of events 2009

Strangers to Citizens lecture series

In association with the Library's current exhibition **Strangers to Citizens: the Irish in Europe 1600-1800**, a series of lectures on various related themes will take place in the Library's Seminar Room. Beginning on Wednesday 21 January, Professor Tom Bartlett, University of Aberdeen, will give a lecture entitled '**The Wild Geese: writing the history of the Irish soldiers in French service, 1690-1815**'. This will be followed on Tuesday 24 February by a lecture to be given by Dr Liam Chambers, University of Limerick, entitled '**The Irish Colleges in Early Modern Europe**'. On Monday 9 March, Dr Diego Téllez Alarcia, Universidad de La Rioja, Spain, will give a lecture entitled '**The Irish in the Spanish Empire (1602-1821)**'. All lectures will begin at 7pm. Booking is not required.

Irish Historic Towns Atlas Lecture

To mark the publication of *Irish Historic Towns Atlas No 19, Dublin, Part II, 1610 to 1756*, Professor Colm Lennon will give a talk entitled **From Speed to Rocque: the growth of early modern Dublin, 1610-1756** in the Library's Seminar Room on 17 February at 6.30pm. Admission is free and booking is not required.

February mid-term break

Learn about the art of heraldry and design a coat of arms at the *Coat of arms - family workshop* to be held on Monday 16 February from 11.30am to 1pm. This event is suitable for children aged 7 to 14. Admission is free but places are limited. To reserve a place, telephone 01- 603 0277.

My Yeats - trail stop tour

Explore the *My Yeats* family trail, a colourful and fun guide for families to complete as they go around the Library's exhibition **Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats**. *My Yeats - Trail stop tour* takes place on Tuesday 17 February at 1pm. This event is suitable for children aged 7+. For further information, see www.nli.ie/yeats

If you would like to receive a copy of our monthly e-bulletin, contact Roisin Barry. Email: rbarry@nli.ie

Comments and suggestions on **NLI News** should be addressed to Bríd O'Sullivan. Email: bosullivan@nli.ie